

can only be effected by the pressure to which the sac is subjected the moment the spine enters another body.

Nobody will suppose that a complicated apparatus like the one described can be intended for conveying an innocuous substance, and therefore I have not hesitated to designate it as poisonous; and the greatest importance must be attached to it, inasmuch as it assists us in our inquiries into the nature of the functions of the muciferous system, the idea of its being a secretory organ having lately been superseded by the notion that it serves merely as a stratum for the distribution of peripheric nerves. Also the objection that the Sting-Rays and many Siluroid fishes are not poisonous, because they have no poison-organ, cannot be maintained, although the organs conveying their poison are neither so well adapted for this purpose nor in such a perfect connexion with the secretory mucous system as in *Thalassophryne*.

Finally, I have to add that neither *Batrachus* nor *Porichthys* has the spines perforated, and also that in *Thalassophryne* the poison-organ serves merely as a weapon of defence. All the Batrachoids with obtuse teeth on the palate and in the lower jaw feed on Mollusca and Crustaceans.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the Naturalization of the White Hare in Faroe.

To Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. &c.

MY DEAR SIR,—The enclosed extract from a letter from my friend Mr. Müller, of Faroe (member of the Danish parliament), will explain my object in sending you one of the specimens of *Lepus variabilis*? which he mentions.

It seems a very successful case of naturalization: the species, of course, did not need acclimatizing.

Yours very truly,

W. C. TREVELYAN.

Wallington, Newcastle-on-Tyne,
Nov. 9, 1864.

“In 1854 or 1855, two pairs of Hares were introduced into Stromøe (Faroe) from Norway: they have increased so rapidly that there are thousands now in the island. One may shoot twenty in a day upon the hills, and it will be impossible to exterminate them.

“I have tried several times to import the Ptarmigan from Iceland, but hitherto without success. It appears that they cannot live more than two or three days when captured. Eggs have proved unsuccessful, too, the greater part having been sat upon.”

Description of Lophogaster typicus. By M. SARS.

At the present day zoologists devote their attention especially to those exceptional forms which serve to unite groups otherwise distinct. These forms, which at one time were regarded as embarrassing